

Selwyn House School



1990

Rugby Tour



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Selwyn House School

1990 Rugby Tour

SELWYN HOUSE SCHOOL RUGBY TOUR MARCH 1990

On March 9, 1990, the Selwyn House rugby teams will depart on a tour of Britain. This tour will enable you to test your rugby skills against some excellent school teams which will help you prepare for your rugby season. The games scheduled should prove to be a real challenge for you. However, you will be doing much more than just playing rugby. Britain has a historical treasure to offer you. It is a land of beauty spots, historic monuments, stately homes and a culture deeply steeped in tradition and folklore. Britain will proffer you a variety of wonders.

BRITAIN: LAND OF HERITAGE

Britain is a country with 4,000 years of history. We cannot hope to see everything so we must have a schedule to follow in order to make the most of our fifteen days.

As we will be visiting during March, we will have the opportunity to enjoy the excitement of spring in Britain. Britain emerges from winter to longer, warmer days, and a wealth of colour on the landscape. The countryside is at its very best during this season, with daffodils, bluebells and primroses bursting into bloom. Heavy boughs of scented blossoms adorn city streets and rural gardens alike. This is also the rugby season with many international matches being played. We do hope to attend one in Scotland.

Although we will be staying in the County of Kent, a mere 37 miles from London, we will have access to a bus which will facilitate our excursions to London and surrounding areas. You will be given some free time during the tour; however, most of your time will be accounted for as we will do most of our sightseeing as a group.

London

London comes to life in the spring and is full of the scent of blossoms. It is rich in history. Whether it's the splendid buildings, the pagentry or the arts, there's something to suit all our tastes. Central London can be said to consist of three main areas. The City is the oldest, with its Roman walls, its ancient buildings and its fascinating narrow streets. The second area is Westminster, with its Royal Palaces, its Abbey and its Government Offices, while the third area, the West End, is the setting for fine shops and entertainments with such well known shopping streets as Piccadilly, Bond Street, Regent Street and Oxford Street. London is on the doorstep of so many delightful and interesting places—all within easy reach by public transport.

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Places of Interest

This is a list of some of the interesting places London has to offer. We will not be able to visit them all, but it does give us a plethora of choices.

- Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace.
- Guinness World of Records. Life sized models and spectacular audio-visual techniques bring to life the Guinness Book of Records.
- Houses of Parliament
- Westminster Hall
- House of Lords
- House of Commons
- Law Courts (Old Bailey)
- London Experience. A spectacular multi-screen, audio-visual presentation of the history of London.
- The stock Exchange.
- Tower of London. Home of the Crown Jewels.
- Dickens House. Charles Dickens lived here from 1837 to 1839. The house contains many relics of the writer's life and works.
- Keats' House.
- Courtyard Institute Galleries. Galleries of the University of London containing the most important collection in the country of Impressionist and post-Impressionist paintings, The Princes' Gate Collection of old masters and other works of art.
- Imperial War Museum. Illustrates and records all aspects of the two World Wars and other military operations involving Britain and the Commonwealth since 1914.
- National Army Museum. The only museum in Great Britain dealing with the British Army in general during five centuries of its existence.
- National History Museum.
- Shakespeare Globe Museum. Permanent exhibition of Shakespearean theatre history on the site of a 16th Century bear-baiting arena.
- St. Paul's Cathedral.
- Westminster Abbey.
- Highgate Cemetery. Atmospheric and Mysterious: Burial site of many famous Britons. Karl Marx is buried here.
- Cruise of the River Thames.
- Twickenham. Headquarters of the amateur Rugby Football Union and is also the home ground for the England side.

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A Day out of London

- Windsor Castle. A day trip outside of London. For over 900 years, Windsor Castle has served as residence and fortress for the British Monarchy, acting as a spectacular backdrop for the important Ceremonies of State.
- Oxfordshire: City of Oxford. Home of the famous University.
- Cambridgeshire: City of Cambridge. Home of the famous University.
- Canterbury: Canterbury Pilgrims Way. A pilgrimage through medieval England. You will become apart of the immortal land of Chaucer's characters: the courtly knight, the bawdy miller, the wife of Bath, the Nun's Priest and the Pardoner. These characters will tell their tales of medieval England to the contemporary traveller. The use of audio-visual techniques will bring to life Chaucer's tales of chivalry, romance, jealousy, pride and avarice.

Scotland

There's something for everyone in Scotland. Lively cities and dramatic scenery; magical mountains and a plethora of golf courses! Most important, the warm hospitality of the Scottish people make Scotland a delightful country to visit, any time of the year.

Edinburgh

Edinburgh, the Borders and the Kingdom of Fife offer an attractive mix of sea air, quaint fishing villages and fertile farmlands, with its own personality, and all within easy reach of Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland. Built on a series of spectacular hills and valleys, Edinburgh is a gracious city; vibrant and fun! From the unmistakable outline of Edinburgh Castle and inspiring positioning of Princess Street, its neo-classical architecture and historical Old Town, Edinburgh is a joy to tour. Richly steeped in culture, Edinburgh offers a wealth of theatres, cinemas, museums and galleries, not to mention great shopping!

Places to visit in Edinburgh

The Castle. Edinburgh's ancient castle houses the Scottish crown jewels, the Great Óall, the expressive Scottish National War Memorial and the room in which Mary, Queen of Scots, gave birth to James VI. The oldest building in Edinburgh is the tiny St. Margaret's Chapel which stands within the castle. It was built in the early years of the 12th Century by David 1, the youngest son of the saintly Queen Margaret, when he came to the throne in 1124 and then moved the capital from Dunfermline to Edinburgh.

ITINERARY 1990

Friday, March 9

- BA-094 - 8:45 p.m. leaves Mirabel
- check in 6:45 p.m.

Saturday, March 10

- arrive at Heathrow 7:55 a.m.
- practice 12:00 Langley Park Boys School, South Eden, Park Road, Bechenham, Kent, (011-44-1-650923)
- S.H.S. staff stay at Meadow Croft Lodge Guest House, 96-98 Southwood Road, New Eltham, London (011-44-1-8591488)

Sunday, March 11

- a.m. local sightseeing
- 2:30 p.m. both teams play Langley Park School at Old Boys' Club House, (011-44-6509253)

Monday, March 12

- bus to London
- sightseeing a.m. and p.m.

Tuesday, March 13

- local sightseeing
- 4:00 p.m. - both teams play St. Mary's School
- 6:30 p.m. Old Boys reception at Alberta House, 1 Mount Street, London, (01-629-4535) contact Mr. Andrew Powell '45

Wednesday, March 14

- a.m. 7-Aside Rugby Tournament
- p.m. bus to London - afternoon and evening

Thursday, March 15

- travel to Scotland, The Borders (10 hours)
- stay at Waverly Castle, Melrose, Roxburghshire (011-44-089682-2244)

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Friday, March 16

- breakfast
- local sightseeing
- 12:00 noon, Merchiston Castle School, Colinton
Edinburgh, (031-441-1567) contact person, Mr. Frank Hadden
Home 031-441-1567
- 12:15 lunch followed by tour of the school
- 2:30 - Sr. vs 22/3rd XV
- 4:00 Midgets vs 3/4th XV
- buffet to follow
- stay at Waverly Castle

Saturday, March 17

- breakfast
- bus to Edinburgh - International Match and/or sightseeing
- stay at Waverly Castle

Sunday, March 18

- breakfast
- journey to Wales - stop approximately half way
- practice
- dinner
- stay at Ruthin Castle, Ruthin, Clwyd (011-44-98242-2664)

Monday, March 19

- breakfast
- journey to Wales - Swansea
- main contact person Mr. Bryan Evans (Gorseinon, Swansea,
(011-44-0792-898283)
- 2:30 p.m. arrive at Penyrheol Comprehensive School Leisure Center -
Mr. Colin Jones, Gorseinon 011-44-094174
- meet billets
- coaches stay at Sea Haven Hotel, 250 Oystermouth Road,
Swansea 011-44-0792-753131

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Tuesday, March 20

- students tour respective schools and stay for lunch
- 2:00 - Midget XV vs Cwrt Sart Comprehensive School Briton Ferry, Neath, West Glam - Mr. Carl Naperella, Deputy Headmaster, Briton Ferry 011-44-812206
- buffet to follow game
- 4:30 Senior XV vs Swansea College Tycnoch Swansea West Glam, Mr. Rob Phillips
- buffet to follow game

Wednesday, March 21

- 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Coaching session at Penyrheol Comprehensive School conducted by Mr. Trevor James, WRU Coaching Development Officer

Thursday, March 22

- 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Local sightseeing
- 5:00 p.m. Midget XV vs Penyrheol Comprehensive
- 7:00 p.m. Senior XV vs Gorseinon College
- buffet to follow Senior game

Friday, March 23

- leave for London
- Post House Hotel Heathrow Airport, Sipson Road, West Drayton - 011-44-1-7592323
- final banquet

Saturday, March 23

- breakfast
- depart for airport 9:00 a.m
- leave for Montreal 11:30 a.m. - BA095
- arrive Mirabel 2:00 p.m.

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National Gallery of Scotland: One of Europe's most distinguished galleries. Works by famous British and continental artists such as Titian, Raphael, Rembrandt, etc.

Parliament House with the Law Courts.

Museum of Childhood. This museum is a treasure house of historic toys, dolls, hobby items, children's costumes and numerous other objects relating to children and the history of childhood.

Scottish Rugby Union Library and Museum.

West of the city lies the famous rugby football stadium, Murrayfield, headquarters of the Scottish Rugby Union. Within these offices a display on the history and development of the game can be seen, together with mementos from its early beginnings to the present day.

Wales

After we leave Scotland, we will travel to the south of Wales. We will journey right through Wales so we will be able to enjoy the beauties of Wales—the constantly changing landscape and pretty little villages. One of the things that people remark on after travelling through Wales is the friendliness of the people. We, as Quebecers, should feel right at home in Wales because they have a language problem. There are bilingual signs throughout the country, in Welsh and English, but there are many unilingual Welsh signs and some Welsh is spoken as well

After 1066, the Normans gradually encroached on and finally conquered Wales. The Welsh's last attempt at freedom ended when the nationalist hero Owen Glendower died in the 15th century.

At the turn of this century, Wales was largely an exploited land, particularly by the English coal barons. For a time, it seemed that the Welsh language might disappear. However, Welsh nationalism appeared to save it, and although it's spoken by only a minority of the Welsh, it does now seem safe. The Welsh language is like nothing you have ever heard and much of it is unpronounceable to the English tongue. There is a militant Welsh separatist movement, as there is in Scotland.

Much of our time in Swansea will be accounted for by our hosts, as we will be spending time in the school, attending rugby clinics and playing games. We will, however, have some time to explore this beautiful region.

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Swansea.

Swansea is Wales' second largest city. It looks out over a curving sandy bay, the striking setting for a splendid award winning Maritime Quarter. Here we'll find a genuine Welsh atmosphere along with local specialities such as laver-bread (a type of seaweed) in Swansea's traditional covered market. The vitality of the city is reflected in a host of activities in theatres and museums galore.

Cardiff.

Cardiff is the youngest capital in Europe. It has a strong association with Welsh rugby. It is a city rich in history, heritage, architecture, culture and entertainment.

Cardiff Castle is a unique three-in-one historic site, a combination of Roman fort, Norman keep and fabulous 19th century mansion. It stands in the heart of the city amidst colourful parkland.

National Museum of Wales.

This is a treasure chest of the country's abundant past.

Laugharne on Carmathen Bay.

Here we can visit the boathouse, which is now a small museum, where the great Welsh poet Dylan Thomas did a lot of his writing. Also, we can visit St. David's where the patron saint of Wales founded his monastery in the sixth century which became one of the greatest shrines in Christendom.

Obviously, this is a mere thumbnail sketch of the marvels of Wales, but we only have four or five days to immerse ourselves in the rich tradition this small country has to offer.

Great British Heritage Pass.

With this pass, 600 castles, abbeys, stately homes, palaces, beautifully landscaped gardens and parks, are accessible to us. It's a real bargain at \$39.00! The more we see the bigger the value. We'll all have one.

Let's have a memorable trip!
P.S. Don't forget your cameras!

Notes

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